

**The Covenant of Our
Congregation
Adopted in 1962**

We do hereby set forth the principles of the Christian faith as commonly held among us, believing that no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

It shall be our aim to bring joy to little children, instruction and high ideals to youth, inspiration to men and women in the midst of life, and comfort to those in life's later years; and to labor together for the betterment of humankind.

Our fellowship shall not be dependent upon identity of theological opinion, or of outward circumstance, or of denominational concern, but shall grow from a common loyalty to Jesus, a common commitment to serve the world we touch, and a common purpose to do justly, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Our ideal is a church of the open mind, the warm heart, the hopeful spirit, and the social vision which ever seeks to express, in all walks of life, the mind of Jesus.



July 27, 2014



First Reformed Church
8 North Church Street
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 377-2201 www.1stReformed.com

Welcome to First Reformed Church

We are a welcoming and affirming congregation and absolutely everyone is invited to our worship, activities, and service.

If you are a first time visitor we hope you feel at home here. Please fill out a little white pew card and place it in the offering plate and join us after the service for coffee and refreshments.

Non Emergency Number

Schenectady Police: 518-382-5200

Parking

You may park in **any** of the lots around the church or the Stockade Inn on Sunday mornings.

Need Help?

Large print bulletins and audio receivers are available to assist you. Please ask an usher. Special bulletins for children are also available. Restrooms are located out the front right doorway of the sanctuary; a baby changing station is in the women's bathroom.

Elders in Worship

Past and current leaders we call 'Elders' walk in together at the beginning of worship and sit in the front pew. This is to identify them as servants of the mission of the church and make it easy to see who you might talk to about the life of our congregation.

Joining the Congregation

To become a member of the congregation, there is a one-time orientation, a meeting with the governing board, and a reception in worship. If you are interested in the next orientation please fill out a white pew card.

Communion

Our congregation celebrates the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday of the month. All followers of Christ are invited to share this meal.

Hearing Assistance

We have hearing reinforcement units that will make it easier to hear. Ask an usher.

Child Care on Sunday

Childcare for babies through age four is available from 10am and noon in Kinderwyk, which is located in the building near the church office entry.

Church School

All children in grades K-8 are welcome to join in our Church School activities by leaving immediately after the Children's Message. Parents can pick up their children after worship on the 2nd floor at the top of the stairs.

Church School on Communion Sundays

On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of the month) youth in grades 3-8 remain in the service to participate in Communion while those in grades K-2 are welcome to go upstairs after the Children's Message for music and crafts.

Children's Worship Bulletins

Special bulletins for children, ages 3-6 and 7-12 are available each Sunday. If the ushers are not handing them out, just ask for one.

After Worship

Typically after worship, people stop for a chat and refreshments in Assembly Hall before going to a learning opportunity that lasts until noon. Visitors are welcome to join in.

Service Online

A recording of each of our worship services is at 1stReformed.com one or two days following the service.

Lost and Found Basket

We have a lost and found basket in the Narthex at the Union St. entrance of the church. If you have lost/misplaced an item at church, please check there.

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 27, 2014

*The congregation may stand.

PRELUDE Olivia Mancuso, piano
To Spring Edvard Grieg

10:00 a.m.

GREETING Daniel Carlson
The grace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & ORIENTATION

CALL TO WORSHIP Stacey Midge

*HYMN *Seek Ye First* #333

*OUR NEED FOR GOD (*unison*)

O God, you know us completely. You know how we have failed to both love you above all others, and love our neighbors as ourselves. You know how we have failed to be faithful members of Christ's body. You know how we have failed to expect, embrace and employ your Spirit's gifts for the common good. O God, in your complete knowing and unfailing love, forgive us, we pray.

*GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

Our Song of Hope

The Holy Spirit builds one church,
united in one Lord and hope,
with one ministry around one table.
The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus to
respond in worship together,
to accept all the gifts from the Spirit,
to learn from each other's traditions,
to make unity visible on earth.

*PASSING THE PEACE

MUSICAL OFFERING

East and West – Cageless Birds
arr. Olivia Mancuso

East went looking for West but never found him
Guilt went looking for my past
but only found love
I've heard about a sea where sin sinks like stone
there's no floor there, just mercy down below
You could run for all of your days
But you'll never run away
There's no mistake I could make
That could ever make You change Your love
I've heard about a man with holes in his hands
He can hide mountains of sin in them
His smile destroys my religion
His love shakes down my prison

FIRST LESSON Chris Fernandes
Guide us, God, by your Word and Holy Spirit.
Amen. *Psalm 119:129-136 (pg 569)*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23(pg 13)

SERMON *Hauling Rocks* Stacey Midge

*HYMN *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* #372

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Olivia & Barbara Mancuso
Build Your Kingdom Here Rend Collective

Come set Your rule and reign
in our hearts again
Increase in us we pray.
Unveil why we're made.
Come set our hearts ablaze with hope
like wildfire in our very souls.
Holy Spirit, come invade us now.
We are Your church.
We need Your power in us.
We seek Your kingdom first.

We hunger and we thirst.
Refuse to waste our lives
for You're our joy and prize.
To see the captive hearts released.
The hurt, the sick, the poor at peace.
We lay down our lives for Heaven's cause.

We are Your church.
We pray revive this earth.
Build Your kingdom here.
Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand.
Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire.
Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere.
Build Your kingdom here.
We pray.

Unleash Your kingdom's power
reaching the near and far.
No force of Hell can stop
Your beauty changing hearts.
You made us for much more than this!
Awake the kingdom seed in us!
Fill us with the strength and love of Christ.

We are Your church.
We are the hope on earth.
Build Your kingdom here.
Let the darkness fear.
Show Your mighty hand.
Heal our streets and land.
Set Your church on fire.
Win this nation back.
Change the atmosphere.
Build Your kingdom here!
We pray!

*DOXOLOGY #592
Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
THE LORD'S PRAYER (*unison*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN *O Jesus, I Have Promised* #388

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Sicilian Mariners*
Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing

+ + +

Summer Church School is ON!

After the children's message we will gather at Kinderwyck where it is air conditioned and close to the after-worship goodies! We are looking to become a little more Bible savvy so we will play "5 Questions" each week with interactive learning (drama, music, art, games, etc.,) Everyone gets smart! We need one or two helpers (18 yrs+) to keep the program running. Call Jamie if you are available even for just one week, 399-6848.

Prayers of the People

Requests for prayer may be noted on a pew card and placed in the offering plate. We pray regularly for those who are ill, those who serve their country, those who hunger, and those who are our enemies. As part of our prayers this morning, we remember with thanksgiving members of FRC & UPC who entered eternal rest in previous years about this time:

Albert Demont, Alice Junker, Rhonda Phillips

If you are aware of a departed member, whose name has not been noted near the anniversary of their death, please speak with one of our ministers or contact the church office.

Celebratory or Memorial Flowers

A flower calendar is posted on the right side of the Poling House entrance to the sanctuary wherein you can choose a date for donating flowers to remember a loved one or to honor a special event. Please inform the church office of your wishes. The cost of the flowers is \$30 for

two bouquets. You may send your check payable to Chancel Guild, c/o Marlene Risseeuw, 2140 Niskayuna Dr., Niskayuna, NY 12309.

Musical Note: *Halle, Halle, Halle*, words: traditional liturgical; music: Caribbean; arr. John L Bell, 1990 WGRG, Iona Community, GIA Pub. Inc. All rights reserved. One License #A-700700

Jazz Vespers Every Sunday ~ 5pm

Today: Dave Gleason, piano, Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

August 3: Nat Phipps, piano, Pete Toigo, bass; Tom D'Andrea, drums

August 10: TBA

Horizons Bible Study Material

Our study for the fall is "Reconciling Paul: A Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians." We will be resuming in September, however, study guides are now available in the church office for \$8 for anyone interested.

Faith Bookshop

Today and during the rest of the summer, the Bookshop will be open briefly before and after most church services. In September, we will go back to our usual schedule and resume taking book orders.

Farewell Reception for Jeremy Bork Today

We will bid farewell to our Covenanter and student under care, Jeremy Bork, with a reception after worship. Have some cake, thank him for his service with us in the last year, and wish him well as he goes to pursue a Master of Divinity at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, MI.

Post Service Summer Refreshments

Over the summer whenever possible, our post service refreshments will be served in the Huntley Garden. Please consider signing up for set-up, refreshments, and clean-up by yourself or with a friend. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in Assembly Hall along with a sheet on

"how to" suggestions. Please read these instructions prior to signing up as it is very important in that the set-up and clean-up is done differently. Any questions, please contact the church office at 377-2201. We are in need of volunteers for **Aug. 10**.

Summer Kerygma Conversations

If you are interested in meeting up with other members to discuss whatever is currently of interest to you (e.g., an experience, event, book, movie, trip, issue) then you are invited to join us for a leisurely yet engaging conversation, 9:30 – 11am, this Wednesday, July 30 in the Dirck Romeyn room (also to be held August 27.) No preregistration required; those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Fowler Summer Camp in Schenectady

We will be providing volunteers for the Camp Fowler Day Camp at Steinmetz Park from July 28-August 1. We are especially in need of volunteers who are available to be there all week as "cabin counselors" from about 8am – 4pm, to spend time with the same group of campers throughout the week. No previous camping experience necessary, just a willingness to build positive relationships with children. A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall.

Camp Fowler Celebrating 60 years!

Come join in celebrating 60 years of Camp Fowler history on Saturday, August 2, 2014. From 2-4pm, bring your family and friends to the beach and swim, canoe, and kayak. From 4-6pm, enjoy a delicious Clements' Old Fashion Chicken BBQ fundraiser. Dinners are \$10 each. Reservations are encouraged. Starting at 7pm, in the Chapel, The Sacandaga String Band (under the direction of Jordan White,) play a Fowler-Benefit Concert. Freewill offering is prior to intermission. You are welcome to attend all, or any portion, of these events. Registration is due by July 31. Any questions, contact Jen Kenneally at jakenneally@aol.com or 399-9032.

Summer VBS!

Children ages 5-95 are invited to attend "Spy School-VBS" August 4-8 from 3-5pm. Students will learn to decode and encode Bible verses. There will be psalm writing with invisible ink. We will speculate on what God's fingerprints look like while we examine our own. All will become masters of disguise dressing up as our favorite Bible characters. God will be uncovered in amazing places! Healthy snacks each day! Fun guaranteed for all! Please call the church office at 377-2201 to reserve your spot. Helpers are always needed! Call Jamie at 399-6848 to volunteer.

Writers Group

A Flash Fiction critique group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Walton Conference Room. Flash Fiction is a COMPLETE story, fiction or nonfiction, written in 1,000 words or less. For more info and signups, contact James Gonda at jamesgonda63@yahoo.com or the church office.

Mid-month Evening Meal & Worship

All those who hunger for good food and table fellowship are invited to bring something edible to share on Wednesday, August 13 at 6pm in Assembly Hall. Following dinner and clean-up a contemplative communion service will be held in Poling Chapel at 7 for all who wish to conclude the evening with reflective and re-centering worship of God. Those with questions may contact Daniel Carlson.

Senior Recital

Olivia Cox will be presenting her Senior Recital at First Reformed Church in Poling Chapel on Friday, August 15 at 6pm. All are welcome!

SICM Summer Lunch Program

Our joint congregations have responsibility for five weeks of the SICM Summer Lunch Program this year. Volunteers are needed! A sign-up sheet is available in Assembly Hall for the following

dates: July 28-August 1, August 4-8, August 11-15, August 18-22, and August 25-29.

As volunteers, we provide a valuable service for the children of Schenectady which requires a commitment of less than two hours each day. Please check the list and sign-up for as many dates as you are available. If you have questions, contact Ellie Rowland, 250-4302.

At Camp Fowler in Speculator

Registration is now open for summer camp 2014! Campers are students in grades 3-12; Fowler also offers a family camp where children of all ages and parents can experience camp together. Volunteers are also needed as cabin counselors and kitchen and maintenance staff. You can find more information on the website at campfowler.org or by contacting Stacey Midge (377-2201), who will be spending the week as chaplain for the senior high campers.

Upcoming HFP Sales

Antiques & Collectibles at the Washington County Fairgrounds, off Rte. 29 between Schuylerville & Greenwich. Saturday, August 2, 8am – 5pm. Sunday, August 3, 9am – 4pm. Admission fee is \$3. Make a day of it!

"COW" Sale at Stanford Methodist Church, corner of Consaul Rd. and State St.. Friday, August 8 & Saturday, August 9 from 9am – 1pm. Also a \$3 bag sale on Saturday from 11am – 1pm. Help us clean out the warehouse!

Sale at the "Little Italy" FESTA, in the Rossi-DeToro funeral home parking lot, Saturday, September 6, 10am – 3pm.

All sales support our operating budget and help us to help others!

HFP Needs of the Month

Furniture: bunk & trundle beds, room fans.

Furnishings: dish & hand towels, washcloths, juice glasses, spatulas, stirring spoons.

As Always: pots & pans, especially frying pans, large pots.

Call Jamie Doriguzzi, Program Coordinator, 346-2444, to arrange for pick-up or warehouse drop-off of useful items or email us at homefurninc@aol.com.

Patty's Place

This drop-in center is open and providing a safe, warm place for sex workers to find resources so that they can make safer choices now, and have the referrals and support to leave prostitution when they are ready. Those who are interested in volunteering or donating to this ministry should contact Stacey Midge. Volunteers are needed to staff the center from 7-10pm on Wednesday nights. Patty's Place also accepts donations of supplies and money. Supplies currently needed include: individual sized shampoo and conditioner, soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, ready to eat food items such as soup and microwave popcorn, chocolate, cans of soda (Diet Coke is in high demand,) NEW women's socks, underwear, bras, shorts, and T-shirts. Donations can be left in Stacey's office

after church or during normal office hours. Financial contributions should be made out to SICM, with Patty's Place in the memo line. Thank you for your support!

54th Stockade Walkabout

Plans are underway for September 27, 2014 from 11am – 5pm, and we are looking for volunteers. Will you help welcome visitors to FRC that day? Have you an activity, program, display, or such, for people to do or see as they tour FRC? If you have any questions or wish to sign up to volunteer, you may contact Laura Lee Linder, 882-6866. We are also looking for volunteers to help bake pastries for Saturday's event on Friday, September 26. If you would like to sign-up, you may contact Mary Jewett, 355-8059.

Kinderwyck

We are looking for helping hands and arms to play with toddlers and rock babies from 9:50-noon each Sunday. Please call the church office if you are willing and able to help with this vital ministry.

| | This Sunday | Next Sunday |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Counting Deacons | Fred Daniels, Christine Daniels | Darwin Brudos, Richard Gardner |
| Faith Bookshop | Committee Member | Committee Member |
| Flower Delivery | Mary Jane Fisher, Lois Stickney | |
| Greeters | George & Nancy Davidson | Tom & Joan Lindsay |
| Kinderwyck | Sarah Bachorik | Sarah Bachorik |
| Liturgist | Daniel Carlson | Daniel Carlson |
| Preacher | Stacey Midge | Stacey Midge |
| Processing Elders | Jeanne Shoulder, Joyce Griggs, Robert Dickson, Jeanette Davidson, Jerry Griggs, Linda Witkowski | Amy Brule, Nancy Davidson, George Davidson, Gay Doolittle |
| Reader | Chris Fernandes | Barbara Walton |
| Refreshments | Farewell Reception | Walter & Alison Yang |
| Ushers | Tom Burgoyne (head usher), David Bundy, Joe Gotwals, Chris Langdon | Nancy Wainwright, Joan Lindsay |

Sunday, July 27

10:00 am Worship
10:15 am Summer Church School for K-8
11:15 am Farewell Reception
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

Monday, July 28

9:00 am Men's Newsgroup

Tuesday, July 29

10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, July 30

9:30 am Summer Kerygma

Sunday, August 3

10:00 am Worship w/Communion
10:15 am Summer Church School K-8
5:00 pm Jazz Vespers

“For the wise have always known that no one can make much of his life until self-searching has become a regular habit, until he is able to admit and accept what he finds, and until he patiently and persistently tries to correct what is wrong.” – Bill W.

“When you're thirsty it's too late to think about digging a well.” – Japanese Proverb

“I don't like and even resist, being broken wide-open. But, when the contents of my unconscious self spill out of me and I sift through all the disowned parts of who I am...it's an uncomfortably enlightening and eye-opening experience. It feels a bit like emotional bloodletting. I guess every now and then, I need that release valve to open all the way...” – Jaeda DeWalt

“It is not length of life, but depth of life.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“There's no value in digging shallow wells in a hundred places. Decide on one place and dig deep. Even if you encounter a rock, use dynamite and keep going down. If you leave that to dig another well, all the first effort is wasted and there is no proof you won't hit rock again.” – Swami Satchidananda, The Yoga Sutras

“Maybe a person's world can grow bigger in all the right ways, not too wide that it becomes shallow, just large enough to preserve its depth.” – Deb Caletti, The Fortunes of Indigo Syke